

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

The ultrasound transducer array 30 may comprise a piezoelectric layer 32 interconnected (e.g. bonded) to support member 40. In one arrangement, the piezoelectric layer 32 may comprise a ceramic-based material such as PZT (i.e. lead zirconate titanate). Optionally, an electrically conductive signal layer 46 may be interconnected (e.g. bonded) to a forward-facing side of support member 40. In one arrangement, conductive signal layer 46 may be defined by gold-plating. Further, an electrically conductive signal layer 34 may be optionally disposed (e.g. sputter deposited) on a rearward-facing side of piezoelectric layer 32 and interconnected (e.g. bonded) to a forward facing side of support member 40 or conductive signal layer 4246 if provided.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown, electrically conductive ground layer 36 and piezoelectric layer 32, as well as the optional layers 38, 34 and 4246 if provided, may each comprise an aligned, common plurality of separated portions that define a one-dimensional array or row, of transducer elements of ultrasound transducer array 30. Correspondingly, a shallow-depth of the forward-facing side of support member 40, may comprise a corresponding, aligned plurality of same-sized, separated portions. The various separated portions noted above may be separately or contemporaneously defined. For example, in one approach, the ultrasound transducer array 30, forward-facing side of support member 40, and various electrically conductive layers interconnected thereto may be cut, or diced, contemporaneously. In turn, an electrically non-conductive material 60 (e.g. a room-temperature-vulcanizing (RTV) rubber) may be provided (e.g. via vacuum impregnation) into the cut-out regions to electrically isolate and physically adjoin the separated portions.